FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **RELEASE #06-2**

Contact:
Trinace Johnson, RDECOM, 410-436-3142

RDECOM engineer saves Army $10 Million with suggestion

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – February 17, 2006 – A US Army electronics engineer saved the government $10 million with his suggestion to improve existing design tools and libraries for an Army program.

Jerry Dickson, of the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC), Redstone Arsenal, Ala. was announced as the Department of the Army 2005 Civilian Suggester of the Year.

Dickson led a design effort to overcome a technical roadblock that endangered a $250 million program.

His efforts resulted in a new drop-in-power amplifier module for the successful completion of the on-going $250 million continuing development contract and upcoming flight test program of the Brilliant Anti-Tank (BAT) Pre-Planned Product Improvement (P3I). The BATP3I is used as a homing device on a specific target's acoustic, thermal and millimeter wave radar signatures. Dickson also developed the necessary manufacturing processes and techniques to ensure successful delivery of the amplifier module.

He successfully completed delivery of 86 fully tested and qualified power amplifier modules on schedule and did it at nearly $1 million under cost.

"I was completely surprised by the selection," Dickson said. "It was a team endeavor from start to finish. Personnel from Fort Monmouth [N. J.] supported me un-relentlessly as did my contracting officer. Perhaps the thing that I am proudest of is the support that I got from the project office... they stuck with me all the way," he said.

Dickson has 18 years of civil service with the government, and four years of military experience. He has three U.S. patents and authored more than 40 publications and technical reports.

-more-

2-2-2
Suggestion

Dickson has performed pioneering work in the application of pseudomorphic high electron mobility transistors low noise amplifiers, image reject mixers, and power amplifiers. Dickson developed the first active W-band receiver that employed a low noise amplifier with an image rejection mixer and the first W-band MMIC power amplifier module. He conceived and implemented a Manufacturing Technology project that saved the Longbow Program over $40 million on the RF transmitter and receiver.

He graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science Degree in electrical engineering from Memphis State University. Dickson is presently attending the University of Alabama in Huntsville, working on his master's degree in aeronautical engineering with a concentration in missile systems engineering.

AMRDEC is part of the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command headquartered in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. RDECOM gets technology out of the laboratories and puts it into the hands of Warfighters as quickly as possible. RDECOM manages eight laboratories and research, development and engineering centers and nine international technology centers. RDECOM has more than 17,000 military, civilian and direct contractor personnel, and is responsible for 75 percent of the Army's science and technology objectives. More information on the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command can be found at www.rdecom.army.mil.

-30-

For more information contact the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Public Affair Office, 410-436-4345.